

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

File No. **11-20129**

-vs-

Hon. **Robert H. Cleland**

**SCOTT WILLIAM SUTHERLAND (D-1),**  
Defendant.

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**JOINT MOTION IN LIMINE  
TO STRIKE FROM THE CONSOLIDATED  
REDACTED INDICTMENT IRRELEVANT,  
INADMISSIBLE OR PREJUDICIAL ALLEGATIONS**

Defendant, Scott Sutherland, along with all the Defendants in Group I, Patrick Michael McKeoun, Jeff Garvin Smith, Paul Anthony Darrah, Cary Dale Vandiver, Vincent John Witort and David Randy Drozdowski moves this Honorable Court pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P 12 (b) (2), Fed. R. Evid. 401, 402, 403, US Const., Am VI and the *In Limine* Doctrine of *Luce v. United States*, 469 US 38.40, 2 (1984) to exclude from the consolidated redacted indictment the following:

1. On September 24, 2014, the government presented to defense counsel a seventy-seven (77) page consolidated redacted indictment.
2. At that time, the Court indicated it intended to permit the consolidated redacted indictment to be submitted to the jury at the outset of the case.
3. In a text-only order issued on September 26, 2014, the Court accepted the redacted indictment for filing, noting the consolidated redacted indictment contained only the outstanding charges against the Defendants in Group I.
4. On September 27, 2014, the government submitted an “updated” redacted consolidated indictment which included a list of unindicted co-conspirators and victims and consists of seventy-nine (79) pages.
5. Both the original and updated redacted consolidated indictment go far beyond informing the jury of the charges and elements and include matters that are:
  - a. irrelevant for purposes of informing the jury of the charges,
  - b. inadmissible at trial,
  - c. beyond the elements of the charges,
  - d. simply the government’s theory,
  - e. unduly prejudicial,
  - f. an unlawful amendment to the third superseding indictment,
  - g. a violation of the Defendants’ constitutional rights of confrontation and a fundamentally fair trial.
6. The Defendants seek further redaction to exclude:

In Part I, Count 1:

- a. Structure of the enterprise and roles of the Defendants, paragraph 8, pp. 3-8.
- b. Overt Acts, paragraphs 1 through 201, PP. 13-47.

COUNT 2:

- A. Overt Acts, paragraphs 1 through 21, pp. 56-61.

In Part II, Count One:

- A. Overt Acts, paragraphs 17 through 25, pp. 72-74.

In the "Updated" Consolidated Redacted Indictment:

Unindicted co-conspirators and victim list, pp. 78-79.

7. The Defendants waive their presence for purpose of this Motion.

However, they requests that a hearing be held wherein counsel can be heard.

8. Concurrence was sought and denied.

9. The factual and legal basis for this motion are set forth in the attached

Brief, which is incorporated by reference into this motion.

WHEREFORE, the Defendants requests that the Court grant the relief requested in this Motion.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Craig A. Daly

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**BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF JOINT MOTION IN LIMINE  
TO STRIKE FROM THE CONSOLIDATED  
REDACTED INDICTMENT IRRELEVANT,  
INADMISSIBLE OR PREJUDICIAL ALLEGATIONS**

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**STATEMENT OF ISSUE**

SHOULD THIS COURT EXCLUDE FROM THE CONSOLIDATED  
REDACTED INDICTMENT MATTERS THAT ARE INADMISSIBLE,  
IRRELEVANT AND PREJUDICIAL?

**STATEMENT OF CONTROLLING AUTHORITY**

Fed. R. Evidence, 401, 402, 403  
US Const. Am VI

## **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On September 24, 2014, the government presented to defense counsel a seventy-seven (77) page consolidated redacted indictment.

At that time, the Court indicated it intended to submit the consolidated redacted indictment to the jury at the outset of the case.

In a text-only order issued on September 26, 2014, the Court accepted the redacted indictment for filing, noting the consolidated redacted indictment contained only the outstanding charges against the Defendants in Group I.

On September 27, 2014, the government submitted an “updated” redacted consolidated indictment which included a list of unindicted Co-conspirators and victims and consists of seventy-nine (79) pages.

**ARGUMENT**

**SUBMISSION OF THE REDACTED  
INDICTMENT WILL DEPRIVE DEFENDANTS  
OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS TO  
CONFORMATION, DUE PROCESS AND A  
FUNDAMENTALLY FAIR TRIAL BECAUSE  
THE REDACTED INDICTMENT CONTAINS  
INADMISSIBLE, IRRELEVANT, UNDULY  
PREJUDICIAL INFORMATION AND AN  
UNLAWFUL AMENDMENT TO THE THIRD  
SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT.**

Once the government submitted a consolidated redacted indictment to counsel on September 24, 2014, the Court indicated it would submit a copy to the jury at the onset of the case. Subsequently, the Court accepted the consolidated redacted indictment for filing and the government submitted an “updated” consolidated redacted indictment listing “unindicted co-conspirators and victim listing” to the document. The Defendants now object on constitutional and evidentiary grounds.

Presumably, providing a copy of the indictment to the jury is intended to assist them in identifying the charges and the necessary elements of the charges. It seems axiomatic that it should not be an

opportunity for the government to submit to the jury, matters that will not be placed into evidence, matters that represents the government's theory, matters that are not essential to the government's obligation to establish the elements of the crimes, matters that are irrelevant or unduly prejudicial, and matters that violate the Defendants' rights of confrontational and a fundamentally fair trial. By way of one single example, the first overt act of Count I, pp. 13-14 alleges a murder of Charles Isler by William Bartell on August 14, 1993 in the DDMC'S Cadillac Clubhouse in Clam Lake Township, Michigan. William Bartell is not a Defendant, not a co-conspirator and Charles Isler is not a victim, according to the government. The overt acts list various other murders, assaults, drug transactions and other criminal activity that do not involve these Defendants, any other co-defendants, any listed co-conspirators or victims. It should be evident, that the government will not offer evidence on each and every overt act in the indictment (and if they do, the defendants will seek exclusion of those that are not relevant or admissible). Nor are they required to. As the government has previously stated, the overt acts are not

necessarily racketeering activities that the government must prove as alleged in the indictment. And to the state the proposition in a simple, straight forward fashion, the government needs not allege or prove a single overt act for any of the conspiracies charged in the indictment. See, *United States v. Shabani*, 513 US 10, 13-14 (1946); *Salinas v. United States*, 522 US 52, 65 (1997) (conspiracy to commit racketeering offenses (18 U.S.C. §1562 (d) and conspiracies to commit substance offenses (21 U.S.C. § 846) do not require allegations or proof of an overt act), *United States v. Saadey*, 393, Fed 3d 669, 677 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2005) Thus, not surprisingly, Count 3 of this indictment, conspiracy to manufacture, distribute, and possess with the intent to distribute controlled substances, does not allege a single overt act. There is simply no need to place information before the jury, in the form of a written government document that contains matters that are not legally (or factually) required. Certainly, if the Defendants sought to introduce their written theory at the outset and listed everything we wanted the jury to be aware of, whether it was admissible, necessary or subject to testing during trial by the government, such a request would be denied out-

of-hand.

The submission of the proposed consolidated redacted indictment also infringes on the Defendants' rights of conformation and to a fundamentally fair trial. US Cont. Am VI; See, *Crawford v. Washington*, 54 US 136 (2004); *Coy v. Iowa*, 487 US 1012 (1988); *United States v. Gomez-Lemos*, 939 F3d 326, 331 5<sup>th</sup> Cir. (1991); *Spencer v. Texas*, 385 US 554, 563-564 (1967) (due process requires "the fundamental elements of fairness in a criminal trial").

Finally, the "updated" consolidated redacted indictment constitutes an unlawful amendment to the indictment. US Const. Am V, *Russell v. United States*, 369 US 749, 770 (1962) (an indictment returned by a grand jury may only be amended upon resubmission to the grand jury); *United States v. Ford*, 872 F2d 12231, 1235 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1989) (amendment of the terms of the indictment after grand jury has passed on them is per se prejudicial and reversible).

The Defendants are not opposed to the Court reading those portions of the indictment, subject to the redactions identified herein, to the jury to inform them of the nature of the charges, and

in order to protect the substantial rights of the defendants. See, *United States v. Maselli*, 534 F2d 1197, 1203 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1976) (There is no requirement that the jury be furnished a copy of the indictment, especially when the Court instructs the jury on the charges and elements of each offense and better practice is not to submit the indictment to the jury in writing since it is not evidence).

WHEREFORE, Defendants requests this Court grant the relief requested.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Craig A. Daly

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